Clean Copies of Amended Claims 1, 7, 10 and 37

1. (Amended) A method of accessing and operating upon heterogeneous data at a plurality of nodes comprising the steps of:

(1) propounding a request containing a data source object name wherein the heterogeneous data is treated as a single data source object, said request further containing at least a first method to be performed on the data source object and at least a second method to be performed on the results produced by performance of the first method;

(2) determining whether the data source object is distributed across a plurality of nodes; and

(3) making a determination as to whether said second method should be performed on said results at each respective node or should be performed at the user site after said results are transmitted from each node back to the user site.

7. (Amended) The method of Claim 6 wherein the results of execution of said second method are automatically returned to the user site and, automatically merged by said first agent process, and wherein a third method is then automatically executed on the merged results by said first agent process.

10. (Amended) The method of Claim 4 wherein a first messenger process cooperates with said first agent process to transmit each said new request to its respective node.

37. (Amended) The process steps of Claim 36 including a step to merge results received at said location and a step to execute a third method of those results.

Copies of Amended Claims 1, 7, 10 and 37 Showing Changes

1. (Amended) A method of accessing and operating upon heterogeneous data at a plurality of nodes comprising the steps of:

(1) propounding a request containing a data source object name wherein the heterogeneous data is treated as a single data source object, said request further containing at least [one] a first method to be performed on the data source object and at least a second method to be performed on the results produced by performance of the first method;

(2) determining whether the data source object is distributed across a plurality of nodes; and

(3) making a determination as to whether said second method should be performed on said results at each respective node or should be performed at the user site after said results are transmitted from each node back to the user site.

7. (Amended) The method of Claim 6 wherein the results of execution of said second method are automatically returned to [a] the user site and, automatically merged by said first agent process, and wherein a third method is then automatically executed on the merged results by [a] said first agent process.

10. (Amended) The method of Claim [3] 4 wherein a first messenger process cooperates with said first agent process to transmit each said new request to its respective node.

37. (Amended) The process steps of Claim [34] 36 including a step to merge results received at said location and a step to execute a third method of those results.